

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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R 161500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3645

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS AND PARLIAMENT DEMONSTRATE CLOSE INTEREST IN
STATUS U.S. BASES

1. BOTH GREEK AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS PAST
SEVERAL DAYS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS
ON STATUS OF U.S. BASES WILL BE HELD IN JUNE. TO VIMA
(CENTER) ON MAY 15 FURTHER SPECULATED THAT A FOURTH ROUND
MIGHT BE HELD "IN THE AUTUMN". IN ADDITION, TO VIMA
REPORTED THAT SOME AMERICANS WHO HAVE SERVED AT U.S. BASES
IN ATTICA AREA WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO SOUDA BAY, CRETE, WHILE
RIZOSPASTIS MAY 14 SUGGESTED THAT GREEK EMPLOYEES OF U.S.
BASES ATTICA MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO SAME SIE IN CRETE.

2. IT WAS REPORTED MAY 16 THAT SEVEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

HAD RAISED QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ADDRESSED TO BOTH
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MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTING SPECIFIC

INFORMATION ON " THE MATTER OF THE TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL OF
U.S. BASES FROM ATTICA TO SOUDA". ANOTHER GROUP OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS ADDRESSED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ASKING WHICH ONES OF THE BASES ON CRETE
ARE
UNDER ABSOLUTE AMERICAN CONTROL AND WHETHER IT IS TRUE THAT
NEW BASES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON CRETE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF
NATO.

3. AVGHI (COMMUNIST-INTERIOR) ASSERTS IN ITS REPORT MAY 16
THAT THE QUESTIONS OF THE DEPUTIES "CREATE A GREAT ISSUE BOTH
FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR MINISTER OF DEFENSE AVEROFF
PERSONALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THEY CONTRADICT GOVERNMENT'S
HERALDING OF GREECE'S DEPARTURE FROM MILITARY ARM OF NATO".

4. IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALIST'S QUESTION MAY 15, EMBASSY
SPOKESMAN DENIED THERE ANY TRUTH TO ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S.
PERSONNEL ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM ATTICA TO
SOUDA. WHILE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS POST MAY 16 PRINGED
DENIAL AS FRONT PAGE ITEM, ONLY TWO GREEK-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS,
AKROPOLIS AND VRADYNI, REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE DENIAL.
KUBISCH

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